

NAMI Walks with LACDMH

By Kathleen Piché, LCSW, Public Affairs Director



On October 1, 2016, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) participated in the 14th Annual NAMI Walk in Grand Park. Approximately 2,000 people joined the annual NAMI event aimed at ending stigma and supporting NAMI programs in Los Angeles County. Actress Carly Chaikin (Mr. Robot) served as Master of Ceremonies, firing up the crowd prior to walking the 5K around downtown Los Angeles.

The fundraiser's theme was "Lights, Camera, Action on Mental Health," shining the light on mental health issues, focusing the camera on our stories to reduce the stigma, and taking action to help NAMI provide the no cost programs of education, support and advocacy for those impacted by mental illness. The fundraiser helps support programs for those who suffer from all types of mental illness, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and severe anxiety disorders.

LACDMH Acting Director, Robin Kay, Ph.D., addressed the crowd as they prepared for the walk. "I want to give a shout-out to the DMH staff! This has been a great year for us, for DMH and NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness)," said Dr. Kay. "We join with NAMI because we believe in hope. We believe in the promise of wellness. We join



NAMI because we believe in this partnership because recovery can be accomplished for us, our families and communities.” LACDMH was a major sponsor in this year’s event.

The goal for this year’s walk was \$450,000. Top fundraising teams were named at the event: <http://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=550>



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